

# EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

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APPLICANT : KAO CORP;

INVENTOR : IMOKAWA GENJI;

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TITLE : NEW CERAMIDASE

ABSTRACT : PURPOSE: To obtain an enzyme useful for treating diseases of disorder of lipid metabolism because the enzyme has optimum pH in the vicinity of neutrality and shows wide activity from an acidic range to an alkali range and activity against natural ceramide fractions.

CONSTITUTION: Ceramidase A. Action: hydrolyzing natural ceramide, palmitoyl sphingosine, oleoyl sphingosine and linoleyl sphingosine. Substrate specificity: having strong activity against palmitoyl sphingosine, oleoyl sphingosine, linoleyl sphingosine and total natural ceramide, especially strong activity against ceramide.type I, II, IV and V. Optimum pH: about 8. Stable pH range: 5-10. Proper temperature of action: 15-45°C. Optimum temperature: 30-40°C. Deactivation condition by temperature: completely deactivated by retaining at pH7.4 at 60°C for 60 minutes. Molecular weight: 60,000±5,000. The enzyme, for example, is obtained by extracting epidermis of guinea pig with an aqueous solvent and purifying the extracted solution by a well-known method such as salting-out, ultrafiltration, etc.

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